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THE TIMES FOUNDED 1884.

RICHMOND, VA., SUNDAY JUNE 9, 1912.

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## REAL ESTATE AND BUILDING NEWS

More Activity in the  
West End, Due to  
Various Causes.

### CATHOLICS MOVING; MANY SALES MADE

Street Car Development Being  
Settled, the Speculators in West  
End Properties Again Get  
Busy—Lively Times Now  
Looked For—New De-  
velopment in Suburbs.

"Well, it has been about half and half. In some lines business has been dull; in others it has been lively. For instance, sales in certain parts of the city have been hard to make; in other parts they have been easy enough to make. Certain suburbs have suffered from a dullness that cannot be accounted for, while other suburbs have flourished with sales, but altogether there have been lively, and anybody who has a house to rent has only to make the announcement, and an applicant for the premises will show up in short order.

That is the way a well-known real estate agent summed up the situation when he was asked by the man of news yesterday. In some respects this authority may be a little off, but in the main he seems to be about correct.

Another real estate man, on the other hand, is a more optimistic kind, and he has some remarks to make, and in so doing he opened up some rather striking, not to say sensational, ideas. Here is about what he said:

Within a stone's throw of where we now stand there is a valuable property that is the subject of serious negotiation. A syndicate has been formed to buy that property purely as an investment. I can't tell you any more than I have told you.

What this fellow had told me was very indefinite and very unsatisfactory. However, after tracing down this hint I found that some weeks ago a syndicate made a pass at the owners of the Travelers' Building, the skyscraper that stands between Eleventh and Twelfth Streets, on Main Street. The proposition was to buy the building purely as an investment. The owners could not exactly see it, and the syndicate retired to mend their holes.

The owners of this property are Garrett Tabb, Belne Blair, H. A. Wallerstein and Denoon Brothers. They are getting right good interest on the investment, and maybe they are not anxious to sell, but all the same they are open to propositions, and this new syndicate has a right lively bunch to go up against. There may be something doing in the next few weeks.

West End Looms Up Again.

For several weeks past the speculators have been resting on their oars, pending certain negotiations between the street railway people and the city authorities in regard to certain franchises. The City Council has now before it a recommendation from the Committee on Streets that franchise be granted the street car company to extend its lines up Broad Street to the Rosemeath Road and along other West End streets. This turns the speculators loose—those speculators who have been holding off, pending these street car extension projects—and all of the indications are that the speculators will now get very busy, the street car projects being now settled to their way of thinking. These developments indicate that the business rush last week, but there will be something doing this week.

Still Another.

Another development the past week has made things a little lively in the West End. The Catholic authorities have been not a little active, and their decision to establish a Catholic school for girls on Stuart Avenue, in close proximity to the Benedictine College, and their further determination to build a great Catholic church in the same neighborhood, a church that will be as large but not so expensive as the cathedral, has created a new demand for property in that region.

Green & Redd, a real estate firm who held a good deal of property in this immediate section, last week made several large sales of lots to home-makers. The buyers were largely Catholics, who, taking advantage of the educational and church facilities in that region, were quick to acquire homes there. Father Edwards has given official announcement of the fact that a large church building will be erected either on Stuart Avenue or Hanover Street, west of Sheppard Street. He also announces that the St. Mary's Church may be abandoned and a big, new church, as large but not so costly as the cathedral, will be erected to meet the demands of the large number of Catholics who now live in the West End and who worship in the chapel of the Benedictine College.

Some Very Good Sales.

Green & Redd report the sales of 2106, 2108, 2112 and 2118 Floyd Avenue, all of which are handsome homes, and all of which brought good prices, aggregating more than \$30,000. They also sold considerable suburban property which ran their total sales for the week up to a little more than \$40,000.

J. D. Carneal & Son report sales as follows: 206 East Grace Street for \$2,500; Park Avenue property to the amount of \$14,700; Second and Clay Streets property to the amount of \$22,500; Kenny & Leigh Streets ditto to the amount of \$10,500; Madison Street property \$11,500; Park Avenue property \$14,700; five dwellings on Broad Avenue for \$10,300; centrally located business property amounting to \$23,500, and various other properties, making their total sales run a little over \$150,000.

W. M. Miller & Co. sold a Hanover Avenue house for \$7,500, and other properties, running their total up to over \$20,000.

Robinson & Phillips report some

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## HOTEL PROGRESS IN RICHMOND



MURPHY'S ACME, 1913.

COLONEL JOHN MURPHY.

### DOING VIRGINIA BY AUTOMOBILE

Another Way of Advertising the  
Old Dominion—Nature's Wonders—Good Roads.

#### NEW ENGLANDERS TAUGHT

Improved Highways Bring Many  
Good Paying Sightseers  
to the State.

BY WILLIAM M. HUNDLEY.

Virginia is beginning to reap some of the benefits of good roads and advertising. Tourists are finding that there are no more beautiful valleys and mountains and other natural wonders anywhere. They are being told of these things as never before in the history of the State by means of articles in magazines and newspapers and the regular avenues of advertising.

The stumbling block heretofore has consisted chiefly in bad roads. There was not much use in calling the attention of an automobilist who was planning a tour, to the wonders and beauties of Virginia when, upon investigation, he was convinced that when he got back home his machine would probably be a rattle-trap his clothes ruined and his recollection of the trip characterized by a jumble of highways of no particular character.

In many instances, in fact, of no character at all. Good roads doctrine, such as The Times-Dispatch and other Virginia papers have been preaching for a long time, has at last borne fruit. Now it needs but to call the attention of the country to the manifold attractions of the State to have tourists flocking here. The best evidence that this is true is found in the fact that they are already beginning to flock.

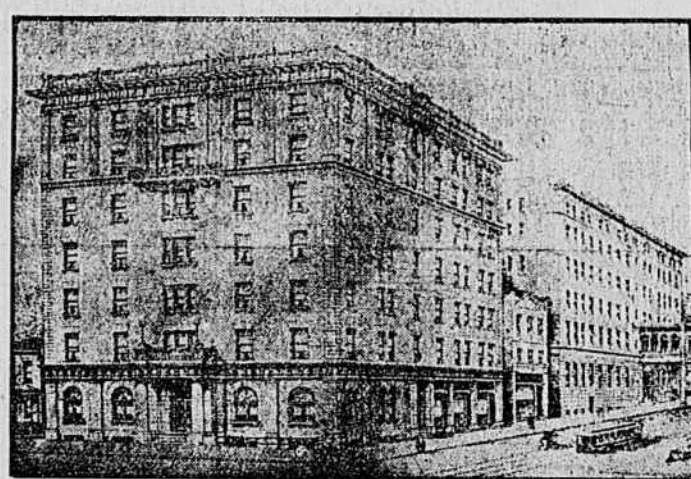
Tell About Good Roads.

A few years ago New England proudly proclaimed that in no other part of the country could be found such opportunities for pleasant and profitable automobilism as there. Now England has the good roads and New England advertised that fact; Virginia now has, in many part of the State, roads as good as, if not better than, New England has. Road building is going on at a rate that is without precedent.

Virginia has the natural beauties that are an inspiration and an education to behold. The thing to do is to proclaim this throughout the land, not merely in the spirit of boast, but as something that people ought to know about. If they know it they will come. This is the time to tell them.

Within the confines of this State there are the most wonderful phenomena of nature to be found east of the Rockies. It is not surprising, however, that the rest of the country is not as familiar with them as with the attractions of New England, for instance, when Virginians themselves, in thousands of cases, know of them only by hearsay. Such wonders as are to be found at Luray; the noble beauty of Natural Bridge and of the natural tunnel; the charm of Mountain Lake, and the marvelous beauty and mystery of Weyer's Cave and the Cave of

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MURPHY'S GRACE STREET ADDITION, 1907.

### NEW ENTERPRISE IN BIG RICHMOND

Coal Briquettes to Be Manufactured in This City on Extensive Scale.

Richmond has a new industry that is or should be of general interest locally and generally. It is claimed that an establishment that is nearing completion out on the Boulevard and Broad Streets is to be one of the greatest economical developments in this part of the country. It is a well equipped plant in which is to be manufactured a coal product from the pulverized coal which it is claimed will surpass anthracite coal in burning quality and heat efficiency and will be a cheaper fuel than the anthracite.

Some months ago the Industrial Section announced the organization and incorporation of the Virginia Coal Briquetting Company and promised to tell at some future date what it is. The company is made up of Richmond men and all of the capital invested is good Richmond money. The officers are: T. M. Carrington, president, R. H. Smith, vice-president, R. S. Plummer, secretary and treasurer, and with Mr. M. B. Rosebaum and F. E. Nolting compose the board of directors. Major Charles Selden, general manager.

The briquetting of coal (the term is derived from the shape in which the product was originally made in Germany and England, where it is all manufactured in the size and shape of bricks) has been especially attractive of attention for the past few years, and the United States government has issued many interesting reports on this subject. There are seventeen plants now in active operation in this country, and as in the main successful, and of course Richmond had to have one.

How the Work is Done.

The binder used to make the particles of coal stick together heretofore has always been a preparation of tar, and the Virginia Coal Briquetting Co. is the first commercial plant to use the "Hite Binder," which is

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### SHETLAND PONIES AS MONEY-MAKERS

Useful Animals on the Farm. How It Pays to Breed Them.

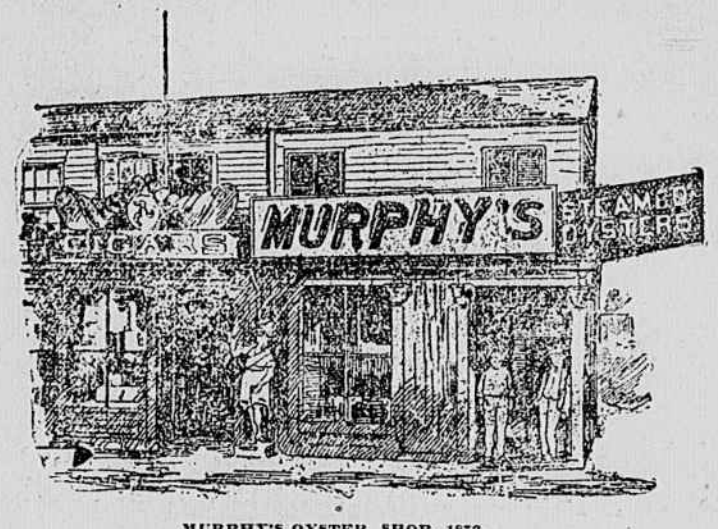
BY J. M. BELL.

The usefulness of that most diminutive specimen of horseflesh, the Shetland pony, has been brought to the notice of the writer lately by seeing the country children riding them to school. In my immediate section several of these ponies are used in this manner, and what a joy they are to their young riders, and how many miles of walking they save their little owners during the seven months' session of the country school! Sturdy, gentle and active, they are ready at all times and in all weather to make the daily trip to school and return, while it may be said right here that those children who used them were rarely ever absent from school morning, knowing full well that their faithful little ponies would get them to school fresh and ready for the day's work, bringing them home in the late afternoon, over roads that might be rough or muddy—at any rate not in a condition to foster a spirit for a pleasant stroll, especially when that stroll means from two to four miles in the gathering twilight of a late winter's afternoon, with snow or rain falling, and the country school boy or girl has a practical idea of these unfavorable weather conditions, as their elders did in their day.

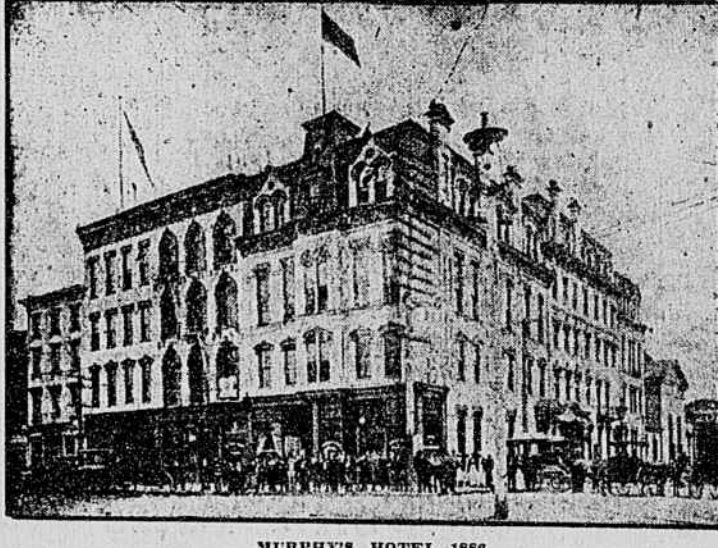
Points About the Shetland.

Two hundred miles north of Scotland, and on a group of rocky islands, the native home of these sturdy little ponies will be found. These islands are rough and barren as a rule. The ponies are fed grass and hay, receiving no grain, and it is said that the gathering twilight of a late winter's afternoon, with snow or rain falling, and the country school boy or girl has a practical idea of these unfavorable weather conditions, as their elders did in their day.

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MURPHY'S OYSTER SHOP, 1872.



MURPHY'S HOTEL, 1886.



MURPHY'S BROAD STREET ENLARGEMENT, 1902.

### VIEWS AND NEAR VIEWS; HINTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Oil in Southside Virginia—Custom House Looks Ugly—Richmond Must Have Deep Water. Optimistic Views Expressed—Silk and Satin Talk—Many Hints and Near Hints.

BY FRANK S. WOODSON, Industrial Editor.

This column is open to contributors who have something to say of a suggestive nature, and who are willing to make hints and suggestions looking to the better development of the good old States of Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina, and who can hold their suggestions down in any one issue to from 150 to 200 words. Such communications, addressed to the Industrial Editor, will receive prompt attention.

Striking Oil in Southside Virginia.

Up in the neighborhood of Burkeville, where the counties of Prince Edward and Nottoway come together, and Amelia is not far away, there is a new development. Some Pennsylvania people have been down there and they think they have found evidence of oil. They are of the opinion that they can "strike it" in that region, and they are so sure of it that they are willing to pay down the money for the oil development privileges, which amount of money is something more per acre for said privileges than the people who own the lands had hoped for to pay the whole price of the land itself. And yet some of the owners of this land, much of which is under mortgage, have become a little uplashed and are throwing all kinds of obstacles in the way of the oil developers. These people are standing very much in their own light. They ought to sell the oil privileges to the Pittsburgh folks, for these same Pittsburgh folks propose to take all of the chances. It may be that they will not find any oil at all, and they may fail to find any minerals, but they are willing to pay a good deal of money for the privilege of trying, and in that way they will spend a great deal more money in that region than has been spent there in very many long years. They ought to be encouraged to spend all the money they want to bring to Old Virginia. The owners of the land have all to make and nothing to lose. Why they hesitate is a mystery to me.

An Ugly Filial.

A man—he was a lawyer—stopped

## NEW MURPHY'S TWELVE STORIES

Old Hostelry Goes Down  
to Make Room  
for New.

### IT TELLS STORY OF RICHMOND GROWTH

Landmark of Many Years Must  
Give Way to Twentieth Century  
Building, in Keeping  
With Progress of City—In-  
fluences Working To-  
ward Bigger City.

One thing that Richmond justly prides itself upon is that the most of the big things in the town are the results of healthy growth, and the Richmond man who can point to a big thing and at the same time claim that it grew large from a small beginning feels that he really has something to be proud of. And he has, too.

Colonel John Murphy is a man who can point with pride to the way in which he has built, and the pulling down of Murphy's Hotel, at the southeast corner of Eighth and Broad Streets, to make room for the twelve-story new Murphy's, is indeed an occasion for a little pardonable boasting in the matter of Richmond development. The old Murphy's was vacated yesterday, and to-morrow the "vandal" will begin to pull down the landmark. The work of the vandals is necessary to make Richmond greater and prettier and more lovely and more accommodating to the thousands of people who come here to find out about what great things Richmond is doing. Murphy's has been affording shelter for just such people for to these many days and weeks and months and years, and now, to meet a new emergency, it must needs enlarge, and Colonel Murphy is just the man to meet a Greater Richmond emergency.

From a Small Beginning.

Nothing can better explain the growth of Richmond and its giant strides to greatness than the story of the growth of Murphy's Hotel. That story is well told in the illustrations on the front page of the Industrial Section, but a few, just a few, explanatory notes may help out a little bit.

Away back yonder in 1872 (maybe a little sooner), John Murphy, a wounded Confederate soldier, started a little oyster house and restaurant at Eighth and Broad Streets, being willing to put in a whole lot of hard work for the privilege of making a living. He served the very best of oysters and in various other ways convinced the public that he was worthy of patronage. There is no use of going into details; the sum and substance of the story is that the oyster house grew into a hotel, and in 1886 Murphy's Hotel sprang up at the corner of Eighth and Broad.

The popularity of the hostelry grew so that sixteen years ago Murphy had to spread out. In 1902 he went across Eighth Street and bridged the old sum, buying the overhead property and doubling the capacity of the house. In 1907 he had to go farther, and then he went down Eighth Street to Grace and built what is known as the Grace Street end of Murphy's, and now found that all of this enlargement was not enough, and there is nothing else to do but to pull down a part of the old, familiar shop and make a twentieth century layout, and that is the work that begins at Eighth and Broad Streets to-morrow morning.

The Hotel That is to Be.

The new Murphy's Hotel will be twelve stories high and will cost \$500,000. The furnishings will add \$150,000 to the cost. Everything about the new building will be modern and complete. The lobby, which will be ninety-three by fifty-eight feet, will be a beauty, with its marble columns and all of its side rooms incased in marble. The dining-rooms and parlors will be incased in marble. The mezzanine floors will afford a magnificent promenade and lounging space, with dining-rooms and parlors and smoking rooms. In all these will be over the lobby, and the main dining hall, and afford guests all of the comforts and all of the facilities for observation that can be called for.

The building will have over 300 guest chambers, to say nothing of the many private parlors and private dining-rooms and lounging rooms. In all respects, the new Murphy's, which will be, according to the contract with the builders, ready for occupancy June 1, 1913, will be a thoroughly up-to-date, twentieth century hotel and travelers' home.

Just a Bit Personal.

Col. John Murphy, who has built up from the very ground this great establishment, is a living example of Richmond grit and nerve. Starting from the very bottom, he has built himself right up, and in the meantime has done as much as any other citizen of this city to build up Richmond. In all of these years Colonel Murphy has always been found in the front rank of Richmond boosters and workers for the upbuilding of Richmond and Old Virginia. He is a man of few words, and one of the kind who, in the habit of keeping his left hand in his right hand as to what his right hand is doing, and therefore there has been no tooting of his horn, but the chances are that when the records are finally gone over, it will be found that John Murphy has done about as much as any other one man to make little old Richmond the greater Richmond that it is.

While the building is going on Murphy's will keep open shop. The Grace Street part of the house will be doing business, and the offices, which Manager Disney will preside over, will be at Eighth and Grace, instead of Eighth and Broad.

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